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EPA commends DEQ on Clean Water State Revolving Fund program

BATON ROUGE – A report issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has commended the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for their effort to protect the waters of the state through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program of fiscal year 2011.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was created in 2009 and provided \$6 billion across the nation in funding to the State Revolving Fund program for investment in water and wastewater infrastructure. Louisiana was awarded approximately \$43 million for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program, whose focus is on wastewater improvement.

Fifty-three communities across the state were the recipients of this award based on the criteria and provisions set forth in ARRA. To date, more than \$41,155,896 has been disbursed statewide. These communities have until Sept. 30, 2013, to expend the remaining balance.

In their letter to DEQ, EPA stated “EPA applauds LDEQ’s progress in the expeditious use of ARRA funds. At the time of this on-site review, LDEQ expended 95 percent of ARRA funds. EPA also commends LDEQ’s effort on providing funds to numerous communities throughout the State of Louisiana. EPA commends LDEQ for the work the entire staff has put towards implementing a successful ARRA program which will help support the state of Louisiana’s waste water infrastructure.”

“I am proud of the work ethic, dedication and results-oriented approach by DEQ’s Business, Community Outreach and Incentives Division staff. The fruit of their labors has ensured that Louisiana communities have been able to make significant improvements to their wastewater infrastructure,” said Peggy Hatch, DEQ Secretary.

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund program is managed by the Business, Community Outreach and Incentives Division.

“Investments in wastewater improvements have not only made a difference in protecting the waters of the state, but these improvements are also critical for expanding both present and future economic development projects,” said Alex Appeaning, Ph.D., DEQ Deputy Secretary.

To see EPA’s entire report, go to www.deq.louisiana.gov. For more information on the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, visit DEQ’s Web site at:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/FinancialServices/CleanWaterStateRevolvingFund.aspx>.